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Medical Mission Series.

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HOSPITALS IN CHINA.



TOOKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SOOCHOW, CHINA.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
Of the Presbyterian Church,
501 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia

HOSPITALS IN CHINA.

By V. F. Penrose.

"Ignorance in some of its aspects may be regarded as only a negative evil, but when it undertakes to practise medicine and surgery, it becomes a positive evil of an aggressive and deadly character. The agonies and sorrows which result from the stupid and cruel inflictions of quackery upon suffering humanity make an awful chapter in the daily experience of mankind."—DR DENNIS.

WE find in China about 150 medical missionaries—more than in any other country. China—with one-fourth of the world's population crowded within its borders—ah, there, indeed, is Christian healing needed. The native doctors have vague and ridiculous ideas of anatomy, for their superstitions forbid dissection. The blood circulation is practically unknown. The stomach is the seat of the breath and of learning. Health depends on the just proportions being preserved between the five elements—fire, earth, wood, metal and water—evil spirits not interfering. Surgery is unknown, for the people believe that any mutilations inflicted here endure throughout the future life. They use vile concoctions as medicines. Nevertheless, we have the authority of Dr. H. M. McCandliss of Hainan, in saying that "in spite of the want of accurate scientific knowledge, many of the Chinese doctors manage to cure their patients. When they shall have added to their keen observation and surprising memories, that knowledge of chemistry, physiology and anatomy which we have, we may expect from them the very best results."

The ignorance of the people combined with their superstition makes them suspicious of the foreign doctors and various reports are circulated, as that children's eyes are used for medicine. In many cases only the desperation of

suffering overcomes their prejudices against foreign medical methods and then it is often too late. But prejudice once overcome, it is quite easy to keep up friendly relations. Take a map of China and locate our twenty Presbyterian hospitals and as many dispensaries with 35 American physicians—20 men and 15 women.



CANTON MISSION—We find at Canton the oldest and largest mission hospital in the world, founded in 1835 by Dr. Peter Parker. It is supported by the Canton Medical Society, the physicians being furnished by our Board. There are 61 wards with 300 beds, and over 20,000 patients treated annually. From 1853 to 1899 it was superintended by Dr. John G. Kerr, who trained 150 Chinese students, and translated over twenty medical works into Chinese. He also founded the only insane asylum in China. This hospital with its large chapel and schools is one of the most important evangelistic agencies in Southern China. Dr. John M. Swan is now in charge. Chinese friends have presented a building for a medical college. There are five dispensaries in different parts of the city.

The Gregg Hospital for women with 30 beds was opened in 1903. A women's medical college and a training-school for nurses are connected with it. 'A Chinese woman gave \$3500 for this hospital, on condition that a children's ward should be added. All the work for women is in charge of Dr. Mary Fulton and Dr. Mary Niles.



GREGG HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN. CANTON,

A glance at the interior will serve to show us all other hospitals in China.

The beds are smooth boards, covered with a piece of matting the same size, resting on trestles. In coldweather

a heavy cotton comfortable, with a cover-slip of dark blue or brown cotton, is added. The Chinese do not like white covering. It looks like death and mourning to them. The pillow is the size and shape of a brick, some made of earthenware, some of leather, and one is "just a wooden block."

"At six in the morning, or earlier," says Dr. Niles, "every one is astir. Hot water must be had to wash face and hands. Next, drops or other medicine must be put into the eyes of the eye-patients. Sores must be dressed by hands that try to be gentle. But if we hear cries from the younger ones, we must not be surprised. Then each one must have the

needful medicine and the prescribed diet. Somebody may cry because she can have only boiled rice for breakfast, when her mouth was fixed for some savory dish.

“At half-past eight all who are able—men, women and children—gather for prayers. At nine o'clock, hurrah for breakfast! Each one sees to the cooking of her own meal, and now, bowls and chop-sticks in hand, they begin in earnest. At ten o'clock dear old Sun Tuk comes from an adjoining street and calls to all who wish to come and study. What a kind and helpful teacher she is! She understands about Jesus' love so well.”

One fourteen-year-old patient after going to the hospital school, said, “I will be a Christian for myself and mother too. Mother has to worship idols. People hire her to worship for them, and that's her way of making a living,”

At Yeung Kong, the Forman Hospital (1903) has 14 beds. The dispensary reaches large numbers.

Lien Chow has a hospital for men and another for women, with a dispensary at Sam Kong.

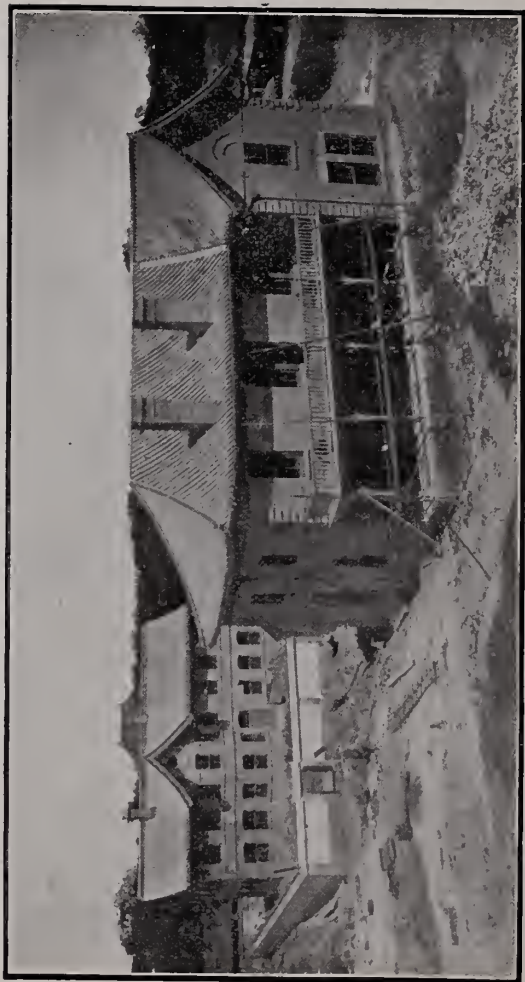
HAINAN MISSION.—There are a hospital and dispensary at Hoihow; the Henry Memorial Hospital, and two dispensaries at Nodoa; a new hospital soon to be opened at Kachek.

CENTRAL CHINA.—The Tooker Memorial Hospital for women and children at Soochow (1899) is superintended by Dr. Frances Cattell and Dr. Mary Fitch, with three Chinese assistants. Miss Lattimore and two Bible women teach the patients and visitors.

At Hwai Yuen (1903), the hospital and dispensary are crowded in small and unsuitable quarters, but much has already been accomplished.

HUNAN.—At Siang Tau, an old temple next the mission compound has been bought and fitted up as a hospital.

PEKING.—The medical work at Peking is slowly recover-



WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

PEKING.

LADIES HOME.

ing from the disasters of 1900. The new Douw Hospital for women was opened in 1903.

At Paotingfu the memory of those who laid down their lives there for China is perpetuated by the most appropriate of monuments. The Hodge Memorial Hospital for women was opened in 1903. It has 14 wards, and is thoroughly equipped. The hospital for men, just completed, was given in memory of Dr. G. Yardley Taylor by his classmates at Princeton University.

SHANTUNG.—The hospital and dispensary at Teng Chow treat each year thousands of patients. Chefoo has a dispensary. At Chinanfu are the McIlvaine Hospital for men (1892), and the Boyd Hospital for women (1899), each with a dispensary. At Wei Hsien, where all the mission buildings were destroyed in 1900, the medical work was housed for a time in a Chinese inn. The new hospitals will shortly be opened. A new dispensary was started in 1903 at Ku Chiu, an out-station.

The medical work at Chiningchow was self-supporting last year, and the two hospitals are now being enlarged. At Ichowfu the hospital and dispensary are overcrowded. A new women's hospital is in prospect.

Beside the patients that come for treatment many are reached by itinerating trips, and many others are treated in their own homes. Among those who are brought for aid are many who have attempted suicide, by opium or other poison. Most of these are women. At Wei Hsien, fifty such cases were treated in eight months, and antidotes were sent to many others through friends.

Another class of patients are the opium smokers, who demand both firmness and patience. One of the Chinese stories illustrates both their medical treatment and the utter folly of the habit. A smoker having wasted his all, determined by some means to secure one last smoke, then kill

himself. In the street he met a man crying bitterly. Asking the cause, he was told his old father was dying, and human brains had been prescribed by the doctor as the only medicine. "See here," said the smoker, "give me money enough for one good smoke, and you may have my brains." A bargain was made. After his smoke the man jumped headforemost against a stone wall. The buyer rushed eagerly forward with his bowl to secure the health-giving brains. "But," the story ends, "opium smokers have no brains."

Every medical missionary finds it necessary to train one or more assistants, and in connection with the larger hospitals and dispensaries, there have always been classes in medicine and nursing. In some cases these students come at their own expense.

We take so little *real* interest in missions that even our few hospitals are not fully equipped with accommodations, appliances, nurses, or even physicians. Attention is not given gratis if the patient can afford to pay, and some pay well. But what should we think here of having a woman waited on by her husband, because there were no trained nurses at the hospital. He gave her food when she wanted it, not as ordered; when he was told to wash the floor of her room, he deluged it with water, till the uneven floor was "quite a system of lakes." The Bible woman, in spite of careful instruction, when left to her own devices, "drenched the patient," to the doctor's great anxiety.

"For a long while, eggshells were carefully saved as ointment boxes and empty milk cans for liquid medicine; the latter selling at a few cash each." This is from a recent hospital report in the interior. All the old clothing was being saved for bandaging. Shall not such work be put on a better basis?

When we hear how many find Christ in the dispensary and hospital, how can we be so indifferent to the inadequacy of equipment that hampers the work so seriously?